

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 91

Expressing the sense of Congress that the Nation should strive to prevent teen pregnancy by encouraging teens to view adolescence as a time for education and growing-up and by educating teens about the negative consequences of early sexual activity.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2003

Mr. CASTLE (for himself and Mrs. LOWEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the Nation should strive to prevent teen pregnancy by encouraging teens to view adolescence as a time for education and growing-up and by educating teens about the negative consequences of early sexual activity.

Whereas nearly 4 in 10 girls in the United States will become pregnant before the age of 20;

Whereas the United States has the highest rates of teenage pregnancy and childbirth in the industrialized world;

Whereas, despite significant progress over the past decade, there are still nearly 900,000 teen pregnancies each year;

Whereas every hour nearly 100 teen girls get pregnant and 55 give birth;

Whereas childbearing by teenagers costs taxpayers at least \$7 billion each year in direct costs associated with health care, foster care, criminal justice, and public assistance;

Whereas almost all adults and teens believe that teens should be given a strong message from society that they should not have sex until they are at least out of high school;

Whereas teen pregnancy is closely linked to other critical social issues, including welfare dependency and overall child well-being, poverty, out-of-wedlock births, responsible fatherhood, and workforce development;

Whereas more than half of all mothers on welfare had their first child as a teenager;

Whereas 80 percent of births to teenagers are to unmarried teenagers, half of unmarried mothers begin their childbearing as teens;

Whereas teenagers who give birth are less likely to complete high school and to go on to college, thereby reducing their potential for economic self-sufficiency; and

Whereas the children of teenage mothers are more likely to be at risk for a variety of adverse health and educational outcomes than other children:

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the Na-  
 3 tion should strive to prevent teen pregnancy by encour-  
 4 aging teens to view adolescence as a time for education  
 5 and growing-up and by educating teens about the negative  
 6 consequences of early sexual activity.

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